

Appl. No. 09/328,975
Amdt. dated 01/27/2006
Reply to Office action of 10/31/2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for delivering a nucleic acid to a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
 - a) forming a composition consisting of a nucleic acid ionically associated with ~~[[and]]~~ a polycation in a solution wherein the composition has a net charge less negative than the nucleic acid;
 - b) ionically associating a polyanion with the composition of step a) in sufficient amount to form a complex having a net negative charge;
 - c) inserting the complex into a mammal;
 - d) delivering the complex to the cell.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polycation is selected from the group consisting of polylysine and polyethylenimine.
4. (canceled)
5. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polyanion comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of succinylated PLL, succinylated PEI, polyglutamic acid, polyaspartic acid, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, dextran sulfate, heparin, hyaluronic acid, DNA, RNA, and negatively charged proteins.
6. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polyanion comprises a block co-polymer.
7. (previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polyanion comprises a molecule selected from the group consisting of pegylated derivatives, pegylated derivatives carrying specific ligands, block copolymers, graft copolymers and hydrophilic polymers.

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8. (previously presented) A tertiary complex for delivering a nucleic acid to a cell *in vivo*, comprising:
- a) the nucleic acid;
 - b) a polycation polymer complexed with the nucleic acid; and,
 - c) a polyanion polymer, having more than 80 monomer units, complexed with the polycation via ionic interaction, wherein the polyanion polymer is not the nucleic acid of a) and the polyanion and the polycation polymers comprise block copolymers.

9-19. (canceled)